

**Strategy for the Popularisation
in Society of Science and Technology**

(Approved by resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 103/2007)

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| 1. INTRODUCTION |
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An important goal of today's knowledge society is an increase in the social stature and acknowledgement of the importance of science and technology within society, as part of the long-term development plan of the Slovak Republic. Achievement of this goal requires construction of a society in which youth value training and education. Research and development must be more user-friendly. Workplaces for research must be reconstructed into open institutions with good interconnection with the business sphere. This interconnection promises more knowledge and innovation with a beneficial impact on the whole society, which in turn will assist in the popularisation in society of science and technology.

At the beginning of the 21st century, a significant portion of the public does not understand the world of science and technology. In addition, many research and development agents and institutions do not recognize the necessity of communication with the public. In any market society, research and development agents increasingly work to solve commercial challenges and problems that are not limited to the interests of the "ivory tower." This work on commercial solutions shifts the development of the entire society. Within the research and development community the growth of knowledge has great potential for improving the awareness of society of the community's work. It is thus important to find reasonable forms of popularisation of the researchers' work, especially the beneficial results of their work in order to improve public awareness of the importance of developments in science and technology. This should proceed with the goal of developing the widespread interest of society concerning developments in science and progress and employment in research and development. Eventually, it is hoped that the nation will achieve consensus regarding the moral and material help of the state, as well as private companies, in addressing scientific and technological challenges.

Based on these challenges, three basic questions need to be pursued:

First, it must be considered whether the entire society can address the broad political and economic issues at stake and appropriately consider the recommendations of professionals in research and development and research institutions working places.

Second, it must be asked whether, in their individual, everyday lives, the public recognizes the beneficial results of research and development, especially in individual sectors of science and technology such as medical, biological and chemical research.

Third, it must be asked whether state organizations for research and development, universities, business entities and the academic community adequately represent themselves in their public communications, and especially whether they can convince the public of the necessity and benefits of their work in view of their financial costs. Public opinion surveys conducted at the initiation of the work of the European Commission demonstrate that currently this is not the case. Nevertheless, there are substantial opportunities for the effective presentation to the public of the benefits of science and technology and its important role in public life.

In view of these issues, and in order to improve the relationship between the science and technology community and the general society, it is **the goal of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic to develop a plan for the popularisation of science and technology**. The goal for this plan is the improved exchange of information between the research and development community and the rest of society. Its most essential element is to stimulate the interest of youth about science and technology at the elementary and secondary school levels, significantly reinforce activities focused on popularisation and presentation of science and technology results and transfer knowledge resulting from research and development into public life.

Popularisation of scientific exploration and the results of science and technology as well as publication of their output as a benefit of this development are values for both parties. Implementation of the main idea of the strategy of popularisation may help primarily to:

- Increase attention of the government of the Slovak Republic, the ministries and other central bodies of the state administration¹, the offices of self-administered regions, as well as the regional representatives and other representatives of the public and private sphere and bring their attention to the importance of the science and technology contributions for general development of the society;
- Evoke the interest of new partners and increase the attention of the entire public for science and technology via outputs in the media or in book publication of the popularisation efforts;

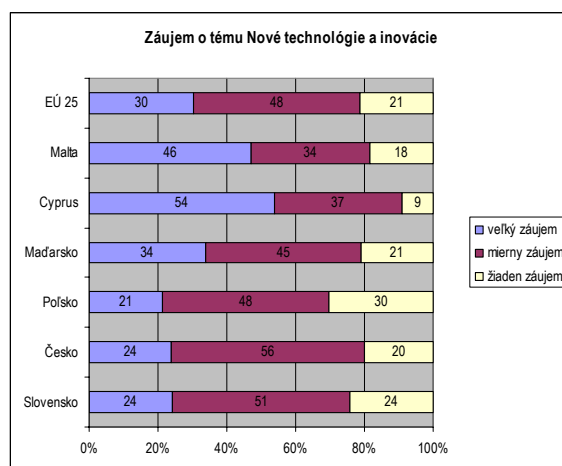
¹ Note.: Power departments like the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and also the Ministry of Economy the Slovak Republic will publish outputs of scientific exploration and science and technology results only marginally as the subject of scientific exploration and the science and technology results in these departments can be subject to a certain degree of secrecy.

- Motivate young people to pursue overlooked study programs of technical and scientific branches;
- Encourage talented students and young researchers to work at the research and development institutions and company research departments;
- Improve the stature of the research and development agents as well as graduates;
- Create space for presentation of research and development results and requirements of society for research and development, especially regarding products and service markets;
- Develop fellowship between researchers and the wider public and add a European dimension to the research and development in Slovakia.

2. CURRENT STATE AND STARTING POINTS

2.1 Relation of the Public to Science and Technology

Not only in Slovakia but also in other countries of the European Union or Europe, public interest in science and technology needs improvement. This situation is documented by the results of a special Eurobarometer of the European Commission published in June 2005. According to this Eurobarometer, 24% of Slovaks would welcome new technologies and have a great interest in them if the media would provide more coverage of them. (Also according to the Eurobarometer 51% of Slovaks have a slight interest and 24% have no interest.). In the Czech Republic the situation is similar (great interest 24%, slight interest 56%, 20% no interest). Poland has a slightly worse situation (great interest 21%, slight interest 48%, 30% no interest). Among V4 countries the best situation is in Hungary (great interest 34%, slight interest 45%, 21% no interest). For overall comparison, within the 25 EU nations, the average for great interest about science and technology is 30%, slight 48% and 21% no interest. The greatest interest shown by respondents is on Cyprus (54%) and Malta (46%).

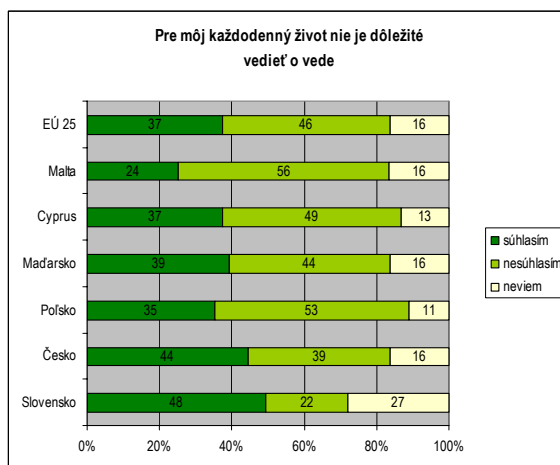


Source: Eurobarometer 2005, European Commission

According to this survey, lack of interest about research and development topics was in the largest extent due to misunderstanding (32%) and lack of interest about the topic (31%). Other responses of the respondents included “I do not need it” (16%) and “I have never

thought of it” (12%). 12% of respondents are not interested without giving any reason, 11% do not have time and others feel they are either too old or could not answer the question asked.

According to the Eurobarometer’s survey 37% of the citizens of the European Union (EU 25 average) think that science is not important for their everyday life. Compared with the other countries, particularly V4 countries, 48% of the survey participants in the Slovak Republic share this view. Also alarming is the number of these respondents who could not answer the question; in the Slovak Republic it is 27% of participants and only 22% think that it is important for their everyday life to know about science.



Source: Eurobarometer 2005, European Commission

This public opinion survey also shows that the problem of the perception of science, new technologies and innovations is a problem for all of Europe. In the survey, Slovak Republic is average and under average, compared to all of Europe, which clearly indicates the need for increased attention to the popularisation of research, its results and the importance of science and technology for the entire society.

Results of the Eurobarometer survey are included here to show how serious this issue is, the importance of devoting proper attention to science and technology popularisation and the importance of addressing the implications of this specialized public opinion survey.

2.2 Activities of the Government and the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in the Area of Science and Technology Popularisation

The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Conception of Science and Technology Policy until 2005 by resolution No. 724 on September 13, 2000. The Conception represented the main program documents for the state science and technology policy for 2000-2005. Following terms of the Conception, the central bodies of the state administration regularly provided the public with information on activities in the area of science and technology. In addition, provision of information on science and technology, organizations, research and development work places in the Slovak Republic, their subject focus and results achieved is performed by the Centre of Science and Technology Information of the Slovak Republic (CVTI SR). The Centre is also the operator of the internet portal of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, www.veda-technika.sk.

Since 2001, in order to present science and technology to the public and to publicize exceptional results in this area, once a year **the Award of the Ministry of Education of the**

Slovak Republic for Science and Technology was granted to the best research and development agents, research and development teams, young scientists, and research and development organizations.

In 2004 the Slovak Republic, as a new member of the European Union, participated for the first time in the **European Week of Science** that is conducted annually by the European Commission. In 2005 **the Week of Science in the Slovak Republic** took place at the national level in participation with the European Commission. In addition to the main activities organized by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for this event, 260 collateral events were organized in 2005 and more than 400 took place in the regions of Slovakia.

In 2005 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Strategy for Competitiveness of the Slovak Republic through 2010. In connection with the strategy **the Action Plan for Science, Research and Innovations** was approved on July 13, 2005. One of the important tasks of the action plan was preparation of the program for science popularisation in society. Its goal is to increase awareness of the public about the work of science and technology in society and in everyday life, to support and increase interest of young people about science and technology and careers in science, as well as to support participation of the public in developments in science and technology and transfer this knowledge to society via intensive dialogue with the public. The action plan also outlined another task, namely, development of the **Central Information Portal for Science, Research and Innovations**. This central portal will provide a state wide information system for science, technology and innovations to monitor data on successful research and development projects financed from public sources, data on their results and mobility opportunities of researchers within Slovakia and all of Europe. This system will provide, both domestically and abroad, for both professionals and the broader public, information on state programs, research and development activities and the results of the research project.

In March 2006 **the Program of the Agency for Research and Development Support** (hereinafter referred to as “the agency”) **to support human potential in the area of research and development and science popularisation** was approved by the resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 216. The main goal of this AVPP program in the area of science popularisation is to emphasize the importance of research and development to the wider public with a specific emphasis on increasing the interest of youth about work in research, stimulating creation of strategic partnerships directed towards improving the quality of education in science and technology and supporting science culture among organizations of research and development and elementary and secondary schools in the Slovak Republic, enforcing the efficiency of mass media communication measures (audio, printed and electronic) in science and technology popularisation and supporting talented youth in their career decision to be active in research and development through regional and national competitions and exhibitions.

The APVV program was approved for a period of five years starting in 2006 and ending in 2010. The total budget allocated for realization of the program will be specified each year according to the resources of the state budget. In 2006 the first budget request for this program was announced and evaluated; the projects in science popularisation for this budget request were allocated 95 million SKK for the entire project period (the project period depends on the subject’s priority and is a maximum of four years). This budget allocation financed 44 projects.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic provided systematic solutions of the results of popularisation projects it supported through contracts in which project directors were required to present the results of their research and development work at seminars, conferences, professional days, public days, panel discussions and so forth. In addition, presentation of research and development results, particularly tasks addressed within the state research and development programs, is accomplished in professional publications, information newsletters, articles in professional journals and so forth. The presentation of research and development results also is provided electronically through internet web pages.

Currently the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic is preparing a **Long Term Plan for State Science and Technology Policy until 2015**, which will frame goals and plans for science and technology popularisation in society.

3. PRINCIPAL GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Although steps have been taken to improve the conditions for science and technology popularisation, Slovakia is lacking mechanisms for enabling members of the public to request from research and development institutions and scientific opinions and proposals. Also lacking are systems whereby scientists would be ready and willing to transfer their knowledge into recommendations. Therefore, it is necessary systematically to improve the perception of science and technology as one of the basic foundations for improving the living standards of all citizens and the overall development of society.

The Strategic Goal in science and technology popularisation thus will be to overcome communication barriers between:

- research and development agents, both scientists and representatives of the development sphere at the national and regional levels,
- scientists and the development community with the broader public,
- research and development agents, scientists and representatives of the business sector using the results of applied research.

The main goals of the popularisation strategy will be:

- to increase awareness of the public about the work of science and technology and realization of their results in practice,
- to increase the interest of young people about science, science careers and work in research and development,
- to improve the communication skills of research and development agents and scientists,
- to increase the prestige and recognition throughout society of research and development work,
- to support participation of the public on developments in science and technology through intensive dialogue,
- to recognize the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding among the state-funded activities for science and technology, research and development workplaces and public opinion,
- to integrate the public into the popularisation of solutions of research and development tasks, for example, by processing the content of questionnaires on science and technology and similar activities,

- to present science and technology as encompassing all of European and the world in an interconnected system which includes the Slovak Republic.

3.1 Supporting Measures to Provide for Science and Technology Popularisation in Society

3.1.1 Programs of the Agency for Research and Development Support

In 2006 the government of the Slovak Republic approved **the program of the agency** to support human potential in research and development and science popularisation for a period of five years until 2010. **The goal of the program of the agency is to provide measures to research and development organizations to promote the results of their own research and development and science and technology popularisation within their subject.** To promote this goal, the agency will continue to support popularisation projects submitted by Slovak legal entities or by natural persons residing in the Slovak Republic, depending on the financial resources of the agency.

The main goal of the program of the agency includes creation of the basis for systematic maintenance through research and development organizations in order to improve the relationship of youth to science and increase the attractiveness of careers in science and to improve public understanding of expenditures in the state budget for research and development in the Slovak Republic.

In accordance with the approved program the agency's supported activities will be focused on:

- activities organized for target public groups in general with emphasis on students and children of elementary and secondary schools, bringing better understanding of the importance of research and development for society,
- development of long term partnerships between individual types of institutions so that the mutual transfer of the knowledge and experience of science education is provided,
- access of the broader public to science and to its results.

3.1.2 National Centre for Science and Technology in Society

Development of **the National Centre for Science and Technology in Society** (hereinafter referred to as "**national centre**") will create the institutional basis to support measures in science and technology popularisation. **The goal** of the national centre will be to popularise science and technology across the Slovak Republic and looking abroad.

The national centre will be established by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic within the CVTI SR (the organization directly managed by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic).The CVTI SR also will operate the Central Information Portal for Science, Research and Innovations. The national centre will constitute the administrative and organizational context for all of academia (universities, state research and development organizations including the Slovak Academy of Sciences, research departments of business sector, non-profit research and development organizations) to present research and development results, to address problems of the research and development organizations in acquiring and retaining human resources for research and development, and problems in

modernization and construction of infrastructure; for young people interested in working in research and development, media representatives, business entities, professional and wide public.

The principal basis for creation of the national centre will be creation of an independent department within the CVTI SR (in the year 2007, with 3 agents, at a cost of 5 million SKK from the budget chapter of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic: 1 million SKK labour costs and 4 million SKK for activities in the popularisation area) that will provide for activities connected with science and technology popularisation in society. Personnel of the independent department within the organizational structure of the CVTI SR: the national centre will be accomplished within the existing working positions of the CVTI and the binding limits of the state budget chapters of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for 2007 and the following years. **The national centre will be continuously established from sources of the EU structural funds.** (The National centre will address projects that request support from the ESF to provide for popularisation activities; it also will address projects that request from the ERDF technical construction at the workplace). The national centre will be established in 2008 because its existence depends on operational funds from the ERDF and ESF and the first appeal for support from these funds will be presented at the beginning of fall 2007. **The national centre will provide for creation and operation of space for mutual communication between the public and the research and development community.** It will operate on the virtual networking principles of research and development organizations (Slovak Academy of Sciences, universities, business practice in the Slovak Republic and in its individual regions) that already work with or have an intention to work with science and technology popularisation in society.

Table: Anticipated increase of the personnel of the National Centre for the Science and Technology Popularisation in the Society and estimate of costs of its operation in the years 2007 – 2013

| Year | | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of agents | | | 3 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 15 |
| Costs from (in thousands of SKK) | SB | labour | 1,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 5,500 |
| | | activity | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| | ESF | | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 6,000 |
| | ERDF | | 0 | 7,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |

Abbreviations: SB – State Budget, ESF – European Social Fund, ERDF – European Fund of Regional Development

In order to coordinate the process of science and technology popularisation in society with other ministries, central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Academy of Science, universities, regional self administration offices, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (as the central body of the state administration responsible for creation and implementation of state science and technology policy across the Slovak Republic) will create a consultative body, the **Managing committee for science and technology popularisation in society** (hereinafter referred to as “**the managing committee**”). The managing committee will be an advisory group of the vice president of the government of the Slovak Republic and the minister of education. The main task of this group will be to provide professional advice to the vice president of the government of the Slovak Republic and

the minister of education to coordinate the process of science and technology popularisation in society with the central bodies of the state administration, regional self administering offices and academia of all sectors of the research and development. The goal of all activities is for science and technology to be understood by the public, an essential requirement for support of science and technology from the state budget. Members of the managing committee will be nominated based on the proposals of institutions listed in Appendix 2 to this document. They will be appointed by the vice president of the government of the Slovak Republic and by the Minister of education.

The managing committee will be composed of representatives selected by the central bodies of the state administration; by the regional self administering offices; by representatives of the research and development sectors (universities, the state including the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the business and non profit sector) and representatives of production business practice (Appendix 2). The managing committee will ensure professional creation and operation of the national centre. The managing committee will annually propose the **conception and program of activities of the national centre** *(part of the conception of activities of the national centre also will be an annual definition of the financial provision of its popularisation activities)* **and the oversight of its activities.**

The national centre will have its own logo that will represent its initiatives. The logo will be designed upon request of the managing committee and will be provided upon request and subsequent registration to the entities that work to popularise science and technology results with the public. Entities performing science and technology popularisation within the activities of the national centre, consistently with applicable laws, also may use their own logos.

The national centre will direct its activity on the popularisation of research and development results across the Slovak Republic performed by research and development organizations in the Slovak Republic and supported mainly from public sources (state budget and structural funds), with their approval. **In this case the national centre will complete a summary of the research and development results, and other problems in science and technology** and will present them in a form comprehensible to all lettered public levels via accessible public communication channels. The national centre will virtually network the research and development organizations, and will co-operate based on agreement with the research and development organization departments/agents and production practice. (These agreements will outline permission to process the research and development results that are subject to protection based on the copyright.) The goal of this virtual network is to work with those who address science and technology popularisation to present in accessible form current problems of science and technology to the public. On its web page the national centre will provide links to web pages of all departments in the research and development organizations that deal with science and technology popularisation in society.

Communication channels toward the public will be important in the activity of the national centre. A detailed functional scheme of science and technology popularisation in society via the national centre is outlined in Appendix 1 to this document.

3.2 Communication Channels of the National Centre

3.2.1. Direct Communication Channels of the National Centre

The national centre will provide for direct contact among professionals and the broader public through conferences, lectures, seminars, public discussions, academic cafes, and permanent exhibits focused on all science disciplines, including technical, natural science, social-scientific and human nature. The goal of this contact is to enable the public to directly understand and respond to the results of research and development. This direct form of contact also will continue to include the annual Week of Science in the Slovak Republic that will be organized by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic together with the national centre. Within the Week of Science in the Slovak Republic the national centre will include all accompanying events organized by the research and development organizations in Slovakia. Part of the Week of Science in the Slovak Republic will continue to be the presentation of the **Awards of the Vice President of the Government of the Slovak Republic and of the Minister of Education for the Science and Technology** in the following categories:

- The Science and Technology Person of the Year
- The Science and Technology Young Person of the Year
- The Science and Technology Team of the Year
- Lifelong Achievement in Science and Technology

Regarding the Awards of the Vice President of the Government of the Slovak Republic and of the Minister of Education, the national centre will initiate negotiations with the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Club of the Science and Technology Journalists of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists, the Union of the Slovak Industry and the Union the Industrial Research and Development Organizations (groups that award different types of awards in area of the science and technology) **with the goal of creating “the National Award” for the science and technology in the Slovak Republic**, while retaining autonomy in granting awards resulting from different histories, traditions and current needs of these entities.

After establishment and creation of the national centre, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and its partners will support activities of direct contact at this centre. For purposes of the popularisation strategy, direct contact activities include:

- conferences
- seminars
- lectures
- public discussions
- academic cafes
- permanent expositions
- exhibitions
- Week of Science in the Slovak Republic
- Day of open doors of the research and development working places
- popularisation of science accomplishments within exhibitions or presentations for the public.

3.2.2 Co-operation of the National Centre with Media

a) The National Centre and Media Relationship Building

Indirect forms of communication of the national centre with the public will be electronic (television, radio, internet) and printed media. The most powerful media is television that is perceived by the public as one of the most reliable sources of information

with rapid coverage. Sociological research also confirms the great social importance and influence of television on the current generations. However, currently there is no great interest in the Slovak Republic by the electronic media in information about science and technology. Therefore the national centre, in cooperation with representatives of the research and development community, will conduct regular meetings with journalists in order to present current research and development results in the Slovak Republic. The electronic media are one of most important measures for presenting science and technology to the public. Therefore the national centre, in the first place, will initiate negotiations with community Slovak Television and Slovak Radio with the goal of creating specific sessions focused on different target groups. At the same time the centre will initiate comparable negotiations with private media. Their involvement in science and technology popularisation is financially demanding. But considering that the electronic media have the greatest influence on the general public, the creation of on-going relationships with this type of media will be a major focus for science and technology popularisation in society.

b) National Centre and Internet

The main information channel today is the internet, which has a substantial and growing influence on the younger generations. In 2007 the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic will put into operation the Central Information Portal for Science and Technology and Innovations www.vyskum-online.sk, that will provide a wide range of information on science, technology and innovations and will be the key information source in the area of science, technology and innovations in the Slovak Republic. The CVTI SR will operate this central information portal.

The national centre that will be an organizational part of the CVTI SR (the CVTI SR also will operate the central information portal), It will issue electronic periodicals especially to promote popularisation events organized by the national centre. The central information portal² will be implemented as a web portal that will enable simple access via the internet. It will provide for acquisition, processing and provision of information specific to the research and development.

3.2.3 Printed Information Materials and the National Centre

Printed information materials reach fewer people compared to the electronic media, but they are important in providing information of a more permanent nature. Printed information materials (such as publications, newsletters and posters) focus on specific target public groups, with comprehensive, quality information using an appropriate expression for each target group. **The national centre will provide printed information materials for presentation of research and development results, for example, with published annual reports on the status of science and technology in the Slovak Republic.** In order to use this communication channel, based on a public opinion survey, the national centre will identify the target groups, allocate financial sources and compose an editorial plan for the information materials.

3.2.4 National Centre and Network of Speakers

Part of the national centre's responsibility also will be the establishment of contact information for speakers – university agents, employees of the state section of

² Note: The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic announced public tender No. 10628-MSS for proposal and realization of the central information system.

research and development institutions including the Slovak Academy of Sciences, business sector and non-profit research and development sector, representatives of the ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic that will provide for the popularisation of specific areas of science and technology in relation to the public. The task of the speakers' network will be to provide information, in a manner understandable to the public, on current developments in science and technology within particular institutions, for example, through press news and the internet. The speakers' position will be established by existing agents of universities and research and development organizations. Financial compensation for performance of this activity, as well as for education of these agents, will be addressed within the CVTI SR project or within the national centre for EU structural funds.

3.2.5 National Centre Communication Rules

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| <i>Timeliness</i> | timely and flexible provision of current information |
| <i>Truthfulness</i> | provision of regular information based on facts and verified data from all available points of view |
| <i>Exactness</i> | provision of precise, clear and undistorted information and data |
| <i>Comprehensibility</i> | provision of information in a form appropriate to individual target groups, using clearly defined, comprehensible and sufficiently extensive argumentation, as well as effective forms of expression. |
| <i>Completeness</i> | provision of complex information that is comprehensive and not taken out of context |
| <i>Interesting</i> | provision of information in an attractive form in relation to individual target groups |
| <i>Predictability</i> | creation of communication systems with the public in ways that will enable to a reasonable extent the prediction of further steps in science and technology |
| <i>Regularity</i> | provision of information in regular intervals in order to promote continuity of information to individual public target groups |
| <i>Feedback</i> | monitoring and evaluation of the communication process. |

3.3 Public Target Groups

In reviewing the needs, interests and positions of the individual target groups of Slovak society, we have identified within the area of science and technology popularisation the following target groups:

- representatives of decision-making spheres at the national and regional level
- research and development agents
- professional public
- business people
- university students

- secondary schools students
- elementary schools scholars
- general public

3.5 Feedback and Results Evaluation

One of the starting points for feedback and also for the appropriate adjustment of communication mechanisms of the national centre will be **the public opinion survey** at the national and European level (Eurobarometer).

Evaluation of the results of science and technology popularisation in society by the national centre will be performed based on regular **monitoring reports** submitted to the managing committee. The monitoring reports will evaluate the success of the target achievements of science and technology popularisation in society, as determined by the activity conception of the national centre for each particular year and the appropriateness of the adjustment of the communication channels used by the national centre. The national centre will adjust the communication channels used based on conclusions of the monitoring report and available financial sources.

The strategy of science and technology popularisation in society will be realized by the following measures:

1. Establishment of the department for science and technology popularisation in society in the CVTI SR as the basis for creation of the national centre
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in co-operation with the CVTI SR
T: June 2007
2. Constitution of the managing committee as counselling body of the vice president of the government of the SR and the minister of education to coordinate activities of the national centre
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic
T: June 2007
3. Development of the process of creation, personnel and financial assurance of the activities of the national centre
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in co-operation with the managing committee
T: October 2007
4. Development of the plan of activities of the national centre including its program of activities and specific projects for science and technology popularisation in 2008
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in co-operation with the managing committee and the CVTI SR
T: November 2007 and annually for the next year
5. Establish the national centre in the CVTI SR
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in co-operation with the managing committee

T: June 2008

6. Complete establishment and implementation of the national centre within the CVTI SR, with sources of the operational funds

R: CVTI SR and Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

T: December 2009

7. Development of the monitoring report on activity of the national centre for 2008

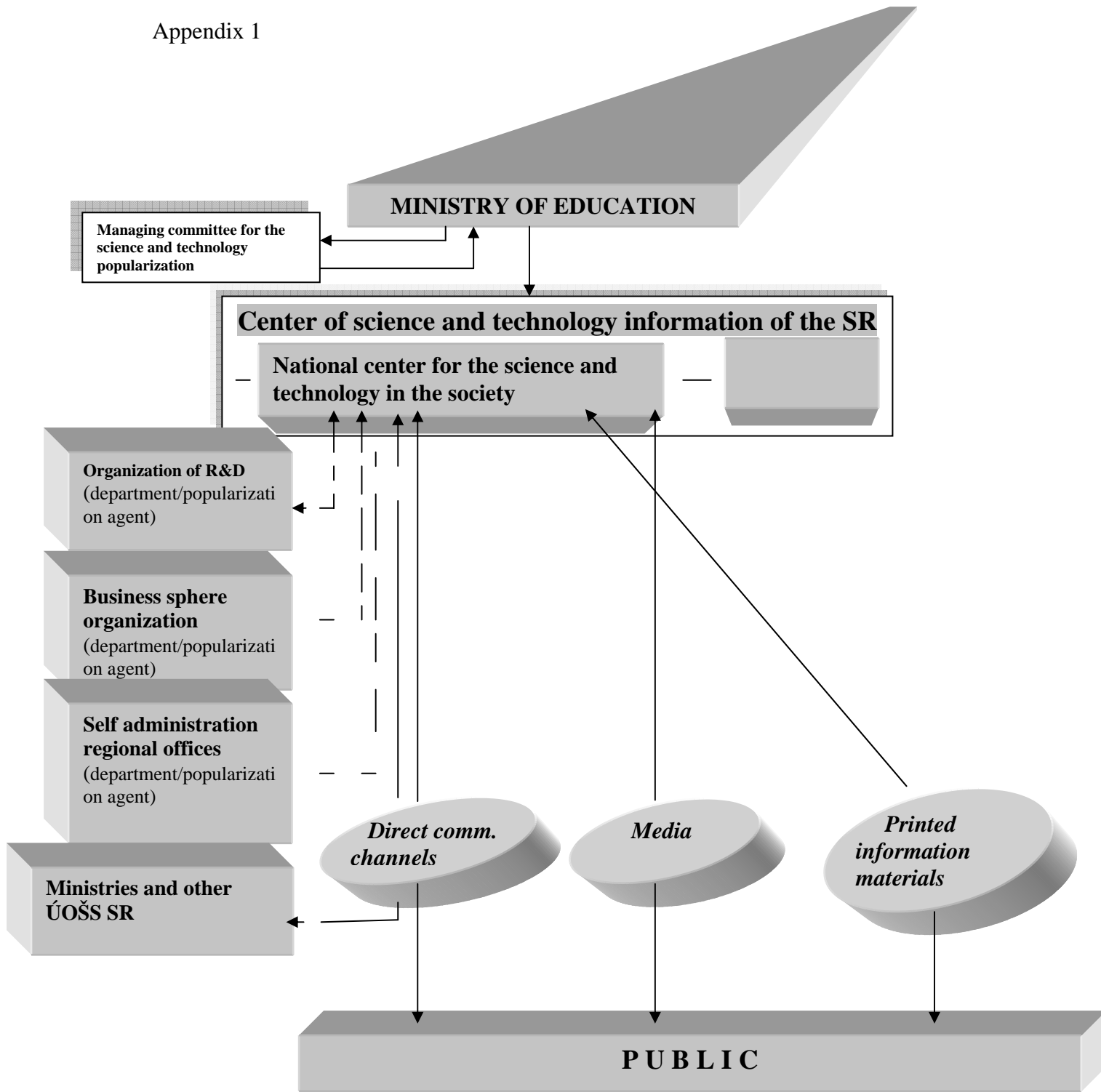
R: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the CVTI SR

T: March 2009 and annually

4. CONCLUSION

Promoting good thoughts and ideas, honouring the wisdom of science and technology, encouraging scientific discoveries and, finally, encouraging the interest of young people in science and science careers are a solid basis for the creation of a knowledge society in the Slovak Republic. Overcoming obstacles among science, technology and society in understanding science and research information, as well as the communication needs of the public, are pervasive concerns in science and technology. Therefore, addressing these issues is a long term strategic goal of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, as coordinator of the state science and technology policy and sponsor of science and technology popularisation in society.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Managing Committee for Science and Technology Popularisation in Society –
counselling body of the vice president of the government of the SR and the minister of
education

*Representatives of:
particular ministries and other central bodies of the state administration
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Slovak Rector Conference
Slovak University Committee
Union of the Slovak Industry
Union the Industrial Research and Development Organizations
Slovak Syndicate of Journalists
Union of Publishers in Slovakia
Slovak Television
Slovak Radio*